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COLOMBIA.

*Report from Panama—Season of drought.*PANAMA, COLOMBIA, *April 29, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of the following unusual conditions existing here that are likely to affect the health of Panama:

The dry season which generally sets in about the last of January each year and continues until the first part of May, has been in progress since the first part of November last past. It is now over five months since we have had any water fall of any amount. In consequence of this lack of rain the water supply is becoming dangerously short. Wells in the city that were never known to go dry before are furnishing no water at all, and there are days when it is difficult to buy water from the water carts in the streets. Since the drains and sewers of the city depend entirely upon the fresh-water supply it may be readily seen what a water famine will mean in Panama.

The general health of Panama has not suffered from these conditions so far, but unless there is rain soon I fear an unhealthy state of affairs will follow.

There has been very little yellow fever during the past few months. So far there have been reported only 2 cases and 1 death. Of late there have been several cases of smallpox but I understand them to be isolated. Of this latter there have been reported something like 8 cases and 4 deaths. The exact facts are not obtainable.

Respectfully,

FRANCISCO GUDGER,
Vice Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

*Reports from Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.*BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, *May 8, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following report of the work done at this port for the week ended Tuesday, May 7, 1901, inclusive.

The following vessels have cleared from this port during the week: May 1, Norwegian steamship *John Wilson*, Olsen, master; crew, 17; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala. May 3, Norwegian steamship *Bodo*, Johannesen, master; crew, 16; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala. May 4, Norwegian steamship *Harold*, Halvorson, master; crew, 17; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala. May 5, Norwegian steamship *Banes*, Fronstad, master; crew, 16; no passengers; for Mobile, Ala.

The health of this town and the surrounding country is very good, so far as I am able to learn. With the exception of 1 death from senile exhaustion, I have been unable to learn of any other deaths during the past week. Deaths are not required to be officially reported, hence the difficulty in gathering information in that line.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.